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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 USSS-00 SAB-01 EUR-12 CU-02
DIWY-01 ARAE-00 SCS-03 FBO-02 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02
PA-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 USIA-06 /101 W
----------101922Z 126479 /46
P R 101830Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3996
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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CARACAS FOR RSO

PANAMA FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, PFOR, GY, US
SUBJECT: CONSULATE PICKETED OVER PANAMA CANAL ISSUE

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 1045 HOURS JANUARY 10, U.S. EMBASSY ANNEX HOUSING THE CONSULAR SECTION WAS PICKETED BY APPROXIMATELY 15 PERSONS BEARING PLACARDS WITH LEGEND SUCH AT "YANKEES, HANDS OFF PANAMA" AND DEMANDING THAT U.S. LEAVE PANAMA.

2. PICKET LINE CONSISTED OF BOTH MEN AND WOMEN AND PLACARDS IDENTIFYING ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN PICKETING. THEY ARE PYO (PIONEER YOUTH ORGANIZATION), WPO (WOMEN'S PROGRESSIVE
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ORGANIZATION), AND GUAYANA PEACE COUNCIL. THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY MARXIST-LENINIST, MOSCOW-ORIENTED OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY, HEADED BY DR. CHEDDI JAGAN. GROUPS ALSO HAVE SUBSTANTIAL LINKS TO WPA (WORKING PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE) AND PEOPLE'S VANGUARD PARTY, TWO OTHER WELL-KNOWN LOCAL RADICAL LEFT-WING POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS MOST RECENTLY DISTINGUISHED BY THEIR OPEN COLLUSION WITH PPP.

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3 PICKETING WAS BEING CONDUCTED IN ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL MANNER
UNDER SURVEILLANCE OF UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICER WITH WALKIE-
TALKIE. PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER FROM PPP
"MIRROR" ALSO PRESENT TO TAKE PICTURES. PICKETING REPORTED ON
LOCAL RADIO AT 1130 HOURS.

4. PSO CONTACTED LOCAL POLICE AND CONFIRMED THAT LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AWARE OF PICKETING AND HAD ISSUED PERMIT.

5. COMMENT: THIS IS MOST INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT IN THAT BE-
HIND THIS ACTION THERE ARE A STRANGE ARRAY OF CAST OF CHARAC-
TERS. THE GUYANA PEACE COUNCIL IS HEADED BY R.N. MCDAVID, PER-
MANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER, PTOLEMY REID. THE WOMEN'S PROGRESSIVE ORGANI-
ZATION IS PPP-SUPPORTED AND HAS AS ITS HONORARY HEAD, JANET
JAGAN. THE PYO IS THE YOUTH ARM OF THE PPP AND PRESIDED OVER
BY CHEDDI JAGAN. UNTIL NOW BURNHAM GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN
ATTITUDE THAT PANAMA CANAL SETTLEMENT ESSENTIALLY ISSUE BETWEEN
U.S. AND PANAMA AND HAS PROFESSED TO UNDERSTAND U.S. POSITION
ON THIS HIGHLY VOLATILE QUESTION INVOLVING FUNDAMENTAL U.S.
INTERESTS IN LATIN AMERICA. EMBASSY
IS PUZZLED AS TO WHY BURNHAM PERMITTED THIS DEMONSTRATION
TO TAKE PLACE SO CLOSE TO THE EVE OF USHERING IN A NEW
ADMINISTRATION IN U.S.--ONE WHICH HE BELIEVES WILL
ADDRESS ITSELF MORE POSITIVELY TO U.S.-GUYANA RELATIONS.
THIS LATEST ACTION MAY BE A PLOY ON RADICAL ELEMENT
WITMJN BURNHAM GOVERNMENT TO EMBARRASS GOG AND APPEARS TO
BE ONE MORE INSTANCE OF AN APPARENT EFFORT ON THE PART
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OF SUCH RADICALS TO FORCE GOVERNMENT INTO RADICAL, LEFT-
WARD DRIFT. SUCH PICKETING WILL CERTAINLY NOT
CONTRIBUTE TO BETTERMENT OF U.S.-GUYANA RELATIONS.
MCCOY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ANTIAMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GEORGE00052
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770009-0371
Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770167/aaaacgtw.tel
Line Count: 101
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 44f9b6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3634626
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULATE PICKETED OVER PANAMA CANAL ISSUE
TAGS: ASEC, PFOR, PDIP, GY, US, PQ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/44f9b6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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